



## ORBA WEEKLY REPORT: July 12 – July 19, 2017

### ISSUES OF NOTE

#### **COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (CEC) – IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL PLAN 2017-18:**

- The CEC Council held its annual meeting on 27-28 June in Prince Edward Island, Canada. The Council approved the 2017-18 Operational Plan and other initiatives. Acting Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida represented the U.S. at the Council Session.
- The U.S. assumed the chairmanship of the Council for 2017-2018 and announced that next year's CEC Council meeting will be held in Oklahoma City.
- The U.S. held meetings this week with representatives of Canada and Mexico and the CEC Secretariat program managers to identify action items for the Secretariat and Parties' experts to initiate implementation of the ten trilateral cooperative projects in the operational plan.
- In addition, EPA hosted an interagency meeting with project team members to advise them of their role and action items to work with the Secretariat, Mexican and Canadian counterparts to implement the projects as designed. U.S. agencies collaborating with EPA on the CEC include: National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration, Fish and Wildlife, Department of State, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. [Troche]

#### **OITA ACTING ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR'S MISSION TO TAIWAN AND JAPAN:**

- Acting Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida traveled to Taiwan and Japan to advance cooperation on air quality protection, circular economy, mercury monitoring, environmental education and other areas.
- In Taiwan, AAA Nishida met with Taiwan Vice President Chen Chien-jen, EPA Taiwan (EPAT) Minister Lee Ying-yuan, American Institute in Taiwan Director Kin Moy, key legislators, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs among other counterparts.
- AAA Nishida reaffirmed EPA's commitment to Taiwan's International Environmental Partnership program and core areas of cooperation under the bilateral agreement such as sustainable materials management, environmental education, air quality protection, and enforcement. She also noted that US EPA welcomes the planned visit of Minister Lee to

the United States.

- Vice President Chen and Minister Lee expressed support for a new proposed Global Environmental Institute which will help EPAT institutionalize the IEP program, increase visibility, develop regional strategy, and help expand global participation in the coming years.
- The American Chamber of Commerce conveyed support for cooperation under IEP during a roundtable meeting with companies including Dell and Dupont.
- In Tokyo, AAA Nishida met with counterparts at Ministry of Environment Japan to follow-up on the bilateral meeting between Administrator Pruitt and MOEJ Minister Koichi Yamamoto at the G7 ministerial last month. These meetings helped advance areas of cooperation under the US-Japan Joint Statement such as air quality protection, mercury monitoring, and environmental education. [Guen-Murray, Novikoff, Harris]

#### **U.S.-JAPAN ECO-CAMPUS PILOT PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED IN TAIWAN:**

- EPA partners—the Environmental Protection Administration of Taiwan and the National Wildlife Federation—delivered a teacher training workshop in Taiwan on July 6-7, 2017. OITA Acting Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida delivered opening remarks and participated in portions of the workshop programming.
- EPA facilitated the participation and connection at the workshop of high school teachers from Missoula, Montana, and Minamata, Japan at the workshop. Their schools will engage in a pilot eco-campus partnership in the 2017-18 school year, engaging in collaborative educational experiences and opportunities with their partner school.
- The connection of the American and Japanese school is a step towards expanding eco-campus partnerships to EPA's bilateral cooperation programs with Japan and globally. [Novikoff, Harris, Guen-Murray]

#### **MEETING WITH TRIBES NEAR U.S.-CANADA BORDER ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES:**

- OITA hosted an interagency meeting with two tribes located near the border with Canada concerning water quality impacts from mining development in British Columbia.
- The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of Montana requested the meeting in follow-up to two letters sent by the transboundary Ktunaxa Nation to the U.S. and Canadian federal governments and to the State of Montana and Province of British Columbia.
- In addition to the two tribes, participation included representatives from EPA Regions 8 and 10, OW, OGC, both OITA's international and tribal sides, and the Department of State.
- The tribes described the decades-long transboundary mining waste issue and the recently-discovered impacts beyond the transboundary Lake Koocanusa which are also affecting drinking water sources for tribes on both sides of the US-Canada border.
- The discussion which followed included a number of suggestions by the various offices

represented, including next steps that could be taken domestically as well as with Canadian counterparts.

The issue is expected to be raised at the next U.S.-Canada bilateral meeting in October. [Teel]

#### **CHINA'S NDRC VISITS EPA TO LEARN ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENCY:**

- On July 10, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) visited the EPA to learn about energy efficiency policies and programs.
- During the meeting, OAR experts presented on two of EPA's voluntary programs – Energy Star and Combined Heat and Power Partnership.
- The delegation was interested in the roles and involvement of various stakeholders in the programs, especially in the certification, verification and compliance components of the Energy Star program.
- The meeting was part of a larger study-tour hosted by the Department of Energy to visit various U.S. agencies, NGOs, and companies to discuss best practices in the energy sector. [Doroski, Chen]

#### **EPA DELIVERS WATER LAW WORKSHOP IN VIETNAM:**

- On July 11-13, EPA partnered with Vietnam Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MONRE) to deliver a 2.5 day workshop on water law.
- The purpose of the workshop, which included about 35 government official participants, was to help MONRE staff develop recommended changes to Vietnam's Laws on the Environment to propose to the Minister later this year, and ultimately to the Vietnam general assembly next year. These changes are intended to help address concerns over major fish kills in Vietnam last year that were likely caused by toxic pollutant discharges by a steel plant.
- EPA joined other international experts from Japan, South Korea, Australia, and the U.S. in providing technical inputs to the process and sharing international experience with water resource management.

This workshop helps implement EPA's interagency agreement with State Department to support strong environmental governance policies and procedures in Vietnam in support of the increasing trade relationship. [Kasat]

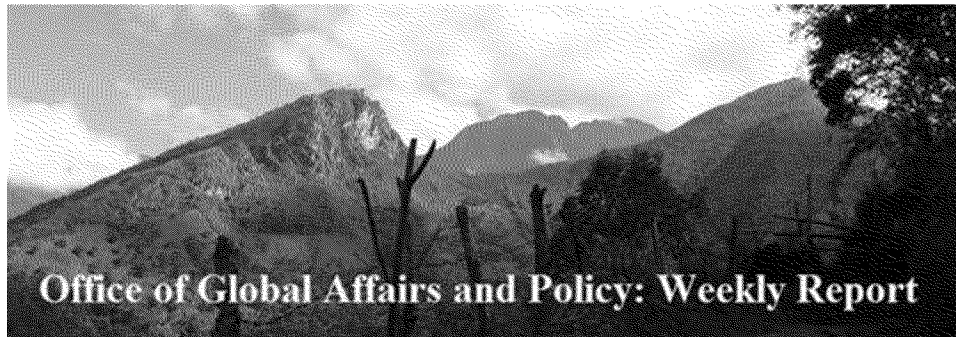
#### **REC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

- EPA represented the United States at the July 6-7 Board of Directors Meeting for the Regional Environmental Center (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe.
- The Board reviewed status to date and approved future plans outlined by new Executive Director Mihail Dimovski to strengthen organizational structures, enhance financial stability and sustainability, and implement a targeted business development strategy.
- The Board also was briefed on proposals from the Hungarian Government to provide new office space for the REC in downtown Budapest that would increase the organizations' visibility and accessibility while reducing costs.
- The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> and will be followed

by the annual REC General Assembly Meeting on December 1, 2017. [Phillips]

## OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS AND POLICY

July 13, 2017



### **G20 Summit Agrees to Action on Marine Litter and Resource Efficiency**

Germany hosted this year's G20 Summit, attended by heads of state, which concluded on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, G20 Leaders adopted a communique which included consensus agreement on key environmental issues- specifically marine litter and resource efficiency. OITA lead the interagency process to prepare the White House on the elements of the communique which resulted in agreement by Leaders to establish the G20 Dialogue on Resource Efficiency and an Action Plan for G20 cooperation on marine litter. The Leaders' communique also reinforced the commitment of all G20 countries to action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) as well as on increased innovation on sustainable and clean energy, and energy efficiency. [Finman, Besch]

### **Planning Meeting with the Paint Industry on High Level Public-Private Leader's Dialogue on Lead Paint**

EPA (OITA/OGAP, OCSPP/OPPT) met with the US paint industry association, which is also the secretariat for an international paint industry association, to discuss plans for a meeting between government ministers and paint industry leaders at the September UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting in New York City. The leader's dialogue will focus on how industry and governments can work together to eliminate lead paint through promoting a harmonized approach to lead paint limits, creating a level playing field. In the meeting, the paint industry expressed its support for such a meeting and offered to help arrange for the participation of key industry leaders. They agreed on the importance of public-private collaboration to establish lead paint laws globally. Based on this input, EPA will work with UN Environment to finalize a proposal for the meeting that meets the needs of both governments and industry. [Smith, Bandemehr]

### **Meeting of the OECD Working Party on Integrating Environmental and Economic Policies**

OITA participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Party on Integrating Environmental and Economic Policies (WPIEEP). The meeting covered current and future work of the OECD Environment Program, in the direction of analyzing the economic impacts of environmental policies. Topics covered at the meeting included: smarter environmental regulations though grandfathering and adding flexibility; analysis of behavioral responses to environmental policies such as smart meter technologies and congestion charges; environmental policies impacts on

labor markets and wages; spatial planning analysis on urban environmental issues; cost benefit analysis and the environment; environmental policies and business performance; and the circular economy. At the end of the meeting, there was a roundtable discussion of food waste measurement methodologies and the economic assessment of food waste prevention, recovery, and recycling solutions. OITA presented on the work that ReFED, a multi-stakeholder nonprofit composed of private and public sector leaders in the food waste area, has done to analyze food waste in the United States. Other countries indicated interest in the work being done in this area. [Mourant, MacDonald]

### **Building Air Quality Management Programs in Developing Countries**

Senior staff from OAR, ORD and OITA briefed OGC officials on ongoing efforts to assist developing countries establish air quality management programs. The OGC officials are traveling to Cambodia for the next phase of a USAID-funded project to help Cambodia revise its entire environmental regime. OAR, ORD and OITA described collaborative work with the World Bank, UNEP and other international organizations, the State Department (particularly a growing number of U.S. Embassies in developing countries) and other stakeholders in helping developing countries to begin assessing air quality and identifying appropriate mitigation measures to protect human health and the environment. As part of this long-term effort, EPA and the World Bank are hosting a “Filling the Gaps” workshop later this month for air quality management officials from a number of developing countries. One output from this workshop will be a best practices guidance document that may be available in time for the third U.N. Environment Assembly meeting in December 2017. [Muehling, Besch, Finman, Ward, Mercurio]

### **EPA Intra-Agency Meeting on the Third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)**

#### **Preparations**

OITA led a meeting to update EPA program offices on the preparations for the next UN Environment Assembly, to be held in early December 2017. Representatives from OGC, OAR, OW, OCSPP, and OLEM participated in the meeting and discussed the State Department-led interagency process, updates from the committee of permanent representatives to the UN Environment Programme, progress on US proposed resolutions on lead paint and water quality and comments recently submitted on a draft background document for the conference. In addition, the group discussed voluntary pledges the US could put forth and a potential side event on air quality monitoring as a follow on from the Filling the Gaps Workshop co-organized by OAR later this month. OITA will continue to coordinate EPA participation in the interagency process and will schedule another meeting to update program offices in late summer. [Finman, Besch, Sims, Bandemehr, Marzouk, Muehling]

### **EPA Provides Input on World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines for Thermal Power Plants**

World Bank's EHS Guidelines for Thermal Power Plants are intended to represent the current state of good international practice. The first public consultation to revise the 2008 Guidelines took place in 2013. OITA is working closely with OAR colleagues to help Treasury provide input to the process, for example regarding power plant efficiency and identifying the latest science and technology references. We are also helping Treasury take into consideration comments received by other stakeholders such as GE and the Export-Import Bank of the U.S.

(EXIM). The final Guidelines for Thermal Power Plants are expected to be published in September 2017. [Ziegler, Maurant]

#### **Meeting of Tuesday Group on Multilateral Development Bank Projects and Policies**

OITA attended the Tuesday Group meeting at the World Wildlife Fund, which brings together civil society organizations and government agency representatives to discuss issues as they relate to ongoing development projects globally. As part of this month's meeting, items for discussion concerned the new agile pilot, the Investigation Panel report for a World Bank project in Nepal, the World Bank's resumption of lending in Uganda, and consultations with the AfDB concerning USAID's strategic framework. [Caspar, Sharan]

#### **"Montevideo Roadmap" for WHO Global Conference on NCDs**

OGAP circulated a draft version of the "Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases) as a Sustainable Development Priority" to EPA's international contact group on environment and health for comment. EPA comments will be submitted to HHS, which has the lead for US engagement with WHO. The document is expected to be an output from a WHO Global Conference on NCDs to be held in Uruguay in October 2017. EPA has been working to raise attention to environmental pollution exposure as a key risk factor for NCDs globally, to supplement the current emphasis in international NCD action plans focused on four other NCD risk factors: tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets. [MacDonald]

#### **Global Mercury Partnership Area Leads Call**

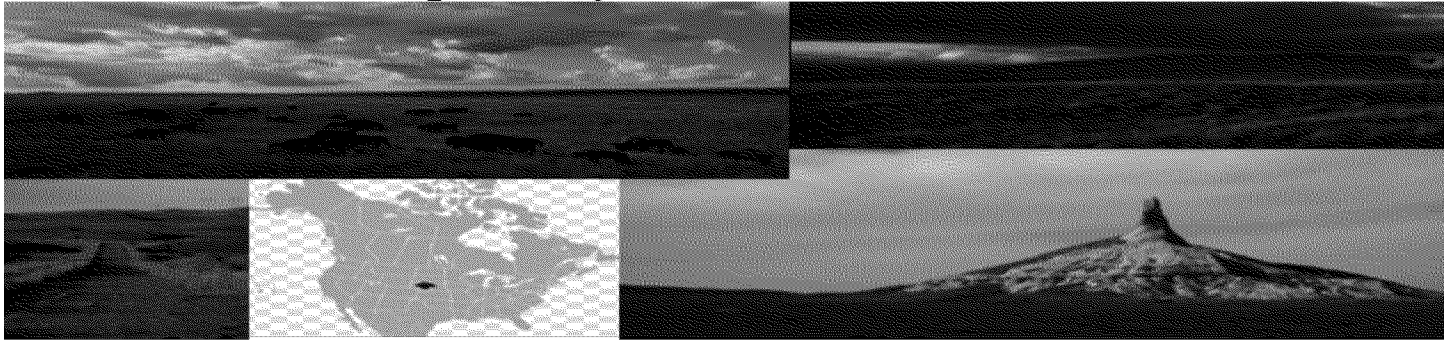
OITA chaired a meeting of the leads of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) on July 12. The GMP currently has eight identified priorities for action - or partnership areas - that are reflective of the major source of mercury releases categories and is composed of a voluntary membership from industry, governments and non-profit organizations. EPA provides leadership to two of those areas (Products and Chlor-alkali) and chairs the Partnership Advisory Group, which encourages and advises the work of the partnership areas. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group scheduled for September 22 in Geneva, Switzerland, which will be held in conjunction with the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention. Topics included updates on changes in UNEP support for the GMP and the introduction of possible initiatives and formats for how the GMP will function once the Minamata Convention enters into force on August 16, 2017. [Bailey, Ankrah, Marzouk, Sims].

#### **Contractor Solicitation for OGAP-UNEP/RONA Project on Food Waste**

UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Regional Office for North America (RONA) has finalized and posted its contractor solicitation to support the OGAP-RONA project. The project will examine various life-cycle oriented methodologies (e.g. LCA, material flows analysis) that are being used or could be applied to efforts aimed at reducing food waste across the food supply chain, applicable for use in North America. The project is meant to complement the newly approved CEC food waste project focused on measurement and benefits assessment of food waste reduction, as well as on resources to promote youth engagement and awareness on food waste. [MacDonald]

# Office of Management & International Services Weekly

## Report July 10 - 17, 2017



**Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (FATAA):** In July 2016, Congress passed and the President signed The Foreign Aid Transparency & Accountability Act (FATAA) of 2016 (FATAA). The Act requires, among other things, that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) submit to Congress a report on how agencies are complying with the FA.gov-related provisions in the Act by July, 2017. In addition, the Act requires the establishment of guidelines for monitoring and evaluating U.S. government foreign assistance programs. OMB has determined that the same list of agencies are covered as those named in the foreign aid transparency Bulletin 12-01, which includes the EPA. OMB has been working with a small interagency group to develop the guidelines, and we would now like to solicit input from all affected agencies. OMIS, along with OCFO, will represent EPA at an upcoming OMB listening session meeting on July 31.

**Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):** OITA is seeking a volunteer to serve as the Office's Coordinator for this year's Feds Feed Families campaign. We're also looking for volunteer Keyworkers for this year's CFC Campaign and for an OITA CFC Coordinator. If you're willing to serve in any of these capacities, please contact Dennis Cunningham.

**Upcoming International Visitors:** Next Tuesday July 18<sup>th</sup>, OITA will be hosting a State Department sponsored Chinese delegation for an International visitors meeting focused on brownfields. Staff members from OLEM and OITA will be attending the meeting.



No Scheduled Travel by EPA Senior  
Managers



